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# BENEDICT: TOO POOPED TO POPE {page 08}

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DAN LECCA

**Fashion Week.** Tommy Hilfiger

▶ Preppy American sportswear mingles with classic British tailoring at Tommy Hilfiger's Fall/Winter 2013 show during New York Fashion Week. Metro's style editors give you an up-close look at all the latest from the runways. {pages 20-21}

MAYBELLINE NEW YORK OFFICIAL MAKEUP SPONSOR OF MERCEDES-BENZ FASHION WEEK

# Middle class being priced out of the city

City Council Speaker says the city faces an 'affordability crisis' in state of city address ◗ Cheaper housing top concern ◗ Also, talks jobs and rebuilding city infrastructure {page 02}

travel

## Virgin Islands welcome kids

A tropical vacation is not too hard to pull off for the whole family at this US territory {page 24}

## Ethan Hawke in highlights {page 13}

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PLUS

## NETS' WILLIAMS TO MISS TIME {page 36}

# Quinn: Big Apple a rotten price for middle incomes

## City Council Speaker says the city faces an 'affordability crisis' Cheaper housing top concern Also talks about jobs and rebuilding city infrastructure

New York is not a city friendly to teachers and construction workers.

That is one of the points City Council Speaker Christine Quinn made yesterday, when she used her State of the City address to say that New York is pricing out the middle class.

Quinn said that from housing to child care, the city is too expensive for people like teachers and construction workers to live.

"We face an affordability crisis in our city," she said. "We need to make sure that people who want to stay in our great city can afford to stay."

She added, "I refuse to accept the notion that large portions of our city are destined to become a luxury only available to the wealthiest among us."

Her office released a report yesterday showing that the average middle-class income has steadily declined since 2001. Meanwhile, Manhattan and Brooklyn were listed in the top five most expensive urban areas of the country, and the unemployment rate for the middle class hit 6.2 percent, according to the report. Before 2008, that rate was 2 percent.

Quinn, who is running for mayor, spoke about her own background, mentioning her grandfather arriving in New York 100 years ago and shoveling coal in a slaughterhouse, all hoping for a better life for his kids.

"That's the dream of the middle class," she said.

Housing affordability was her top focus — she suggested creating 40,000 new middle-income apartments throughout the next 10 years.

Quinn also wants to reward building owners that turn market-rate apartments into affordable units, suggesting a fixed property tax.

"We will not let middle-class families get priced out of the neighborhoods they helped build," she said.

She also promised to overhaul the city's maintenance code, ensuring things like leaking pipes will become a violation, which will keep affordable housing well maintained.

Throughout the speech, she spoke of New Yorkers trying to get by and succeed in the city, like Lerida Mojica, who started a company, New York Cake Pops, after using an East Harlem space set up by the city to provide kitchen space.

**Alison Bowen**
*alison.bowen@metro.us*

WILLIAM ALATRISTE

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn gave the annual State of the City address yesterday.

### Other points

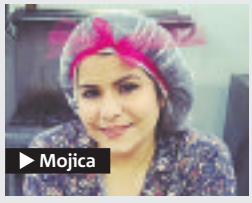
**Not all proposals were about housing:**

- Tax credit for child care available to anyone making up to $150,000 a year
- Transforming South Bronx infrastructure, transit hubs and roads
- Doubling the city's exports by 2020, creating jobs for Staten Island waterfront
- Funding employment education in the healthcare workforce
- Job centers where New Yorkers can be interviewed by trained professionals and connected to hiring companies

### One mom's struggle to build a business

Throughout the speech, Quinn spoke of New Yorkers trying to get by and succeed in the city, like Lerida Mojica, who started a company, New York Cake Pops, after using a city-created East Harlem incubator that provides kitchen space. Mojica, 31, told Metro that she started the company while juggling two small children, now 4 and 5, after fielding requests for the treats that she would make for her kids' birthdays. But her New York City apartment was too small to expand for hundreds of pops, so she found La Marqueta, a city-created project that allows budding entrepreneurs to share kitchen space.

"New York is so expensive," she said, adding that her Inwood apartment would not have allowed as many orders. Even now, she said, "It's still very expensive for us."



Mojica

### In the news

## Cop-killer found guilty

Lamont Pride was found guilty this morning in the murder of Officer Peter Figoski, the NY Post reported.

Figoski was killed while reporting to the scene of a burglary in East New York, where Pride and four other men were attempting to rob a drug dealer on Dec. 12, 2011.

The jury found Pride guilty of second-degree murder and burglary, but not of the other four charges he faced, including first-degree murder.

METRO/DT

### In the news

## Dolan on the next pope

New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan says he was startled by Pope Benedict XVI's announcement that he will resign this month due to deteriorating health, according to The Associated Press.

Dolan said on the "Today" show Monday morning that he feels a special bond with the pope because he was the one who appointed him archbishop of New York.

METRO/LS

### In the news

## Bill de Blasio pushes for universal pre-k

Public Advocate Bill de Blasio toured early childhood facilities this morning to call attention to his plan for universal pre-kindergarten, as well as afterschool programming.

METRO FILE PHOTO

de Blasio

De Blasio visited P.S. 50 and the East Harlem Center, both run by the Children's Aid Society. The mayoral hopeful is calling for universal pre-kindergarten for all 4-year-olds, a program he said would be the first in the city's history. According to de Blasio, there are currently 48,000 children who receive only part-time pre-kindergarten or none at all.

De Blasio's plan would also establish after-school programming for middle schoolers from 3 to 6 p.m. every weekday.

De Blasio proposed the plan be funded by a five-year income tax increase on New Yorkers earning $500,000 or more.

METRO/DT

## Fatal Fire in East Harlem

A fire in an apartment in Taft Houses in East Harlem may have resulted in the death of a 30-year-old man. At 4:14 a.m., police and firefighters arrived on the scene of a fire at 1385 Fifth Ave.

Firefighters put out the fire, and discovered a 30-year-old man who appeared to be in cardiac arrest in apartment 2E. He was taken to Mount Sinai Hospital and pronounced dead.

The Fire Marshall is working to determine the cause of the fire.

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**FACT: 30-40%** of blind injections result in needle misplacement.[1] With this much inaccuracy, **it's no wonder most people never find relief.**

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[1] Reference - Epidural steroid injections procedures. Medscape reference retreived July 26th 2011. [2] Results may vary. Prior results cannot guarantee future outcomes.

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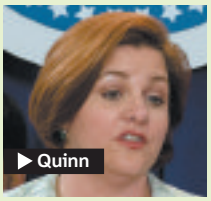
## News in brief


▶ Quinn

### Major unions delay mayoral endorsement

**NEW YORK.** Unions have decided to hold off on endorsing a mayoral candidate before May, according to Crain's New York. The publication reports that labor unions will wait longer than usual to endorse a candidate. The Central Labor Council's executive board voted to hold off on endorsements until May, according to Crain's. Council Speaker Christine Quinn is perceived to be the frontrunner, but candidates also include Public Advocate Bill de Blasio and former comptroller Bill Thompson. **METRO/AB**

# 'Taxi of Tomorrow' faces more obstacles as lawsuit is filed

The "Taxi of Tomorrow," an idea introduced in 2009 to bring a complete redesign of the modern taxi to the city, is facing some bumps in the road.

The Greater New York Taxi Association has filed a suit challenging the plan because the vehicle chosen to be the "Taxi of Tomorrow," a Nissan NV200, is not a hybrid, The New York Times reports.

The suit was filed because a section of the city's administrative code states that the city must approve at least one hybrid electric vehicle model for use as a taxicab. The Nissan NV200 design was approved last year and boasts such features as transparent roof panels and an exterior light that flashes when the horn is honked. But the vehicle has also received criticism because it is not wheelchair-accessible.

It is not yet clear how the city will handle the suit, according to The New York Times.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The new taxicab is under fire because it is not a hybrid.

**13K**

**Under Nissan's 10-year contract with the city, Nissan would be the sole manufacturer of all the city's 13,000 taxis.**

**LAURA SHIN**
*letters@metro.us*

## In the news

### Rats have moved inland after Sandy

**NEW YORK.** Hearing some extra squeaks in your apartments? Those might be rats fleeing Hurricane Sandy, months after the storm. Exterminators say that the floodwaters drove rats further inland than they had been before, according to The New York Times. The newspaper reported that neighborhoods like Brooklyn Heights and Lower Manhattan were the source of many calls to exterminators. Staten Island exterminators also reported problems in that borough, where a lot of homes still are not able to be lived in yet. **METRO/AB**

## News in brief

### Teen makes online threat against cop

Jonathan Thompson, a 19-year-old reputed gang member from Brooklyn, turned himself in to police Sunday night after he had allegedly used Facebook to order the death of a police officer.

Thompson arrived at the 73rd Precinct in Brownsville with his lawyer, mother and a clergyman, according to The New York Post.

He had allegedly threatened and harassed NYPD Deputy Inspector Joseph Gulotta using the precinct's Facebook page. Thompson ordered the cop's death, describing Gulotta's car and even his work schedule. **METRO/LS**

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# Sandy victims face tax hikes

As homeowners in Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn continue to shell out tens of thousands of dollars to repair damage caused by Hurricane Sandy in October, the city has claimed property values have increased in the area and homeowners are facing higher tax bills, the New York Post reports.

One homeowner stated his tax bill will increase by $200 since the city claims his property value has gone up by nearly $80,000.

Residents say they are shocked because it is obvious that property values have fallen, and many homes are still far from being repaired.

Councilman Michael Nelson of Brooklyn called the increases "heartless" and believes the city must address the situation.

Property owners in other areas who also saw extensive damage from the storm, including Coney Island, Staten Island and the Rockaways, told the Post that they have also received tax hikes.

Homeowners have until March 15 to appeal to the city Tax Commission. METRO/LS

▶ Sandy victims who live in Manhattan Beach are being told that their property values are rising.

GETTY IMAGES

**Westminster.** Top dog

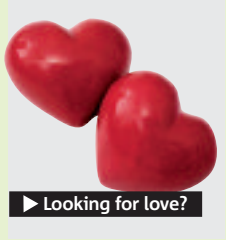
▶ A sheepdog is preparing for its big moment during the start of the annual Westminster Dog Show.

GETTY IMAGES

## New York's dog days are here once again

**The 137th Westminster Dog Show opened on Monday, Feb. 11, at Pier 92 and 94 on the West Side of Manhattan and will run through tonight when the Best in Show is judged at Madison Square Garden. More than 3,000 dogs are competing for the top prize.** METRO

**In the news**



▶ Looking for love?

THINKSTOCK

## New Yorkers pay big cash for V-Day dates

Can't find a date for Valentine's Day?

You can bid on one at Whatsyourprice.com — and you wouldn't be alone: New Yorkers are tops out of all U.S. cities to sign up to pay for a date on the site.

The dating website, where users bid on dates, reported yesterday that 28,000 New Yorkers have paid women to get a first date on Valentine's Day.

New York topped the people looking for the most dates, followed by Los Angeles and Miami. METRO/AB

"A rose by any other name would taste really sweeet!"

William Bakespeare

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# Foxy Knoxy to break silence over murder trial in TV interview

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▶ Amanda Knox is escorted to her appeal hearing at Perugia's Court of Appeal on Sept. 29, 2011, in Perugia, Italy.

Amanda Knox, the U.S. college student cleared of murder by an Italian court after four years in prison, will talk publicly about the trial for the first time to ABC News in April, the network said yesterday.

Knox, 25, will discuss the sensational case with Diane Sawyer in an interview to be broadcast on April 30 — the same day her book "Waiting to Be Heard" is published.

Knox was convicted of murdering her British roommate, Meredith Kercher, in 2007 in a grisly, sex-fueled crime in the Italian hill town of Perugia. She was sentenced to 26 years in prison.

She was cleared on appeal in 2011 and returned from Italy to her Seattle-area home, where she has kept a low profile.

**40**
**Kercher's half-naked body was found with more than 40 wounds, and a slashed throat.**

Kercher's half-naked body, with more than 40 wounds and a deep gash in the throat, was found in the apartment she shared with Knox in Perugia where both were studying.

The crime and the trial drew worldwide attention and criticism in the United States of the Italian legal system.

ABC said Knox will divulge details she has never shared about her journey from an American student studying abroad to a young woman facing decades behind bars in Italy. **REUTERS**

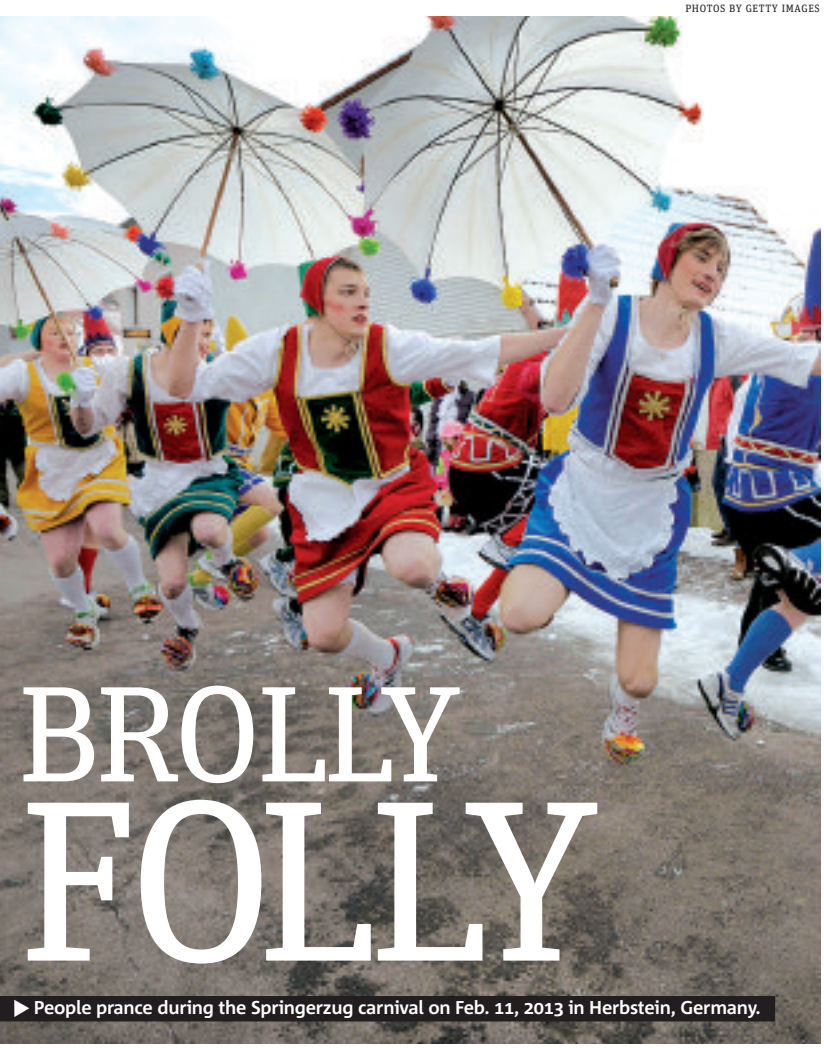
**In the news**

## Two dead, plus gunman in Delaware court shootings

A man stalking one of his victims shot and killed two women waiting to pass through metal detectors at a courthouse in Wilmington, Del., yesterday and was then killed himself after an exchange of gunfire with police, officials said.

Two male police officers, 42 and 50, were also struck by bullets in the early morning shooting at New Castle County Courthouse but were saved by their bullet-proof vests, Delaware State Police Sergeant Paul Shavack said at a news conference. **REUTERS**

PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES



# BROLLY FOLLY

▶ People prance during the Springerzug carnival on Feb. 11, 2013 in Herbstein, Germany.

## Festivities

On a cold Monday, Germans are in a mood for dancing. Revelers in Herbstein take part in Springerzug, literally "jumping parade," a local Carnival tradition. Rose Monday is the high point of the annual Carnival in the region between Mainz, Cologne and Dusseldorf, where since 1823 people celebrate free-spirited merrymaking before Lent.

## Carnival facts

Carnival week begins on the Thursday before Ash Wednesday and finishes on Ash Wednesday.

**Origins.** In the early 19th century, fun-loving expression (using parody and mockery) was seen as an act of defiance against Prussian and French occupation. In derision against the orderliness of the Prussian soldiers, locals would don extravagant costumes and carry wooden rifles with flowers protruding from the barrels.

**Moneymaker.** $2.7 billion of revenue is generated by the carnival season in Germany, according to German Carnival Association.

**Candy cache.** During Cologne's Shrove Monday (Rose Monday) procession, 330 tons of candy, 700,000 chocolate bars and 220,000 chocolate boxes are thrown into the crowds lining the streets.

## Floating satire parades by

Floats with satirical portrayals of politicians are a traditional part of Carnival celebrations in Rhineland. One float in Cologne this year depicts Chancellor Angela Merkel as a mother sow, with piglets wearing European flags suckling at her teats. In Dusseldorf, Merkel was paraded through the streets with a Hitler-like moustache being drawn on by a Greek.

▶ A float depicts a member of the Russian punk band Pussy Riot dancing between President Vladimir Putin and a Russian Orthodox Church cleric.

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# Pope's abrupt resignation surprises Catholic Church

Pope Benedict XVI stunned the Roman Catholic Church, including his closest advisers, yesterday when he announced he would stand down in the first papal abdication in 700 years, saying he no longer has the mental and physical strength to run the church through a period of major crisis.

Church officials tried to relay a climate of calm confidence in the running of a 2,000-year-old institution, but the decision could lead to one of the most uncertain and unstable periods in centuries for a church besieged by scandal and defections.

Several popes in the past, including Benedict's predecessor John Paul, refrained from stepping down even when severely ill, precisely because of the confusion and division that could be caused by having an "ex-pope" and a reigning pope living at the same time. This could create a particularly difficult problem if the next pope is a progressive who influences such teachings as the ban on female priests and artificial birth control and its insistence on a celibate priesthood.

The Catholic Church has been rocked during Benedict's nearly eight-year papacy by child sexual abuse crises and Muslim anger after the pope compared Islam to violence. Jews were upset over rehabilitation of a Holocaust denier, and there was scandal over the leaking of the pope's private papers by his personal butler. REUTERS

ANDREAS SOLARO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Pope Benedict XVI cited a physical inability to continue as pontiff as the reason for his abdication.

**"Both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me."**

POPE BENEDICT XVI

**1.2B**

**The pope leads more than 1 billion Roman Catholics worldwide.**

## Speaking the church's language

**Pope Benedict announced his historic decision to resign yesterday in an address to cardinals that he delivered in Latin, the ancient tongue whose use he has done much to encourage.**

Pope Benedict, known for his traditionalist leanings, is the latest in a string of modern-day popes to encourage a revival of Latin, the language that gave rise to Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian and Romanian.

Last year he launched a new Vatican department to promote the study and use of Latin in the church and beyond. He has also allowed a partial return of the old-style Latin Mass that was phased out four decades ago.

He launched a Latin Twitter account this year, tweeting in the official language of the Catholic Church for the first time in January. REUTERS

### In Latin

"Quapropter bene conscius ponderis huius actus plena libertate declaro me ministerio Episcopi Romae, Successoris Sancti Petri, mihi per manus Cardinalium die 19 aprilis MMV commissum renuntiare."

### Which means ...

"Well aware of the seriousness of this act, with full freedom I declare that I renounce the ministry of Bishop of Rome, Successor of Saint Peter, entrusted to me by the Cardinals on 19 April 2005."

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# Vatileaks could have played role in pope's resignation

▶ Some speculate the pope felt isolated after the "Vatileaks" scandal.

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The "Vatileaks" scandal, which saw Pope Benedict's former butler leak confidential documents, left the pontiff "isolated and may have been a factor in his resignation," a Vatican observer said. Elena Curti, deputy editor of Catholic international weekly The Tablet, answers questions.

**Has Pope Benedict's resignation come as a shock?**
The timing has been a surprise. While Benedict did indicate in the past that he would step aside if he felt he was unable to continue, the Catholic world has been astonished by this news. As the years went by, the pope did grow weaker both physically and mentally. But the Vatileaks scandal, which saw Benedict's ex-butler Paolo Gabriele steal thousands of Vatican documents, some of which alleged corruption within the church, might have been a factor in his resignation. Knowing that one of his closest aides had betrayed him must have left him very isolated and powerless. The pope must have felt that power was slipping away from him, his power to govern.

**Do you think Benedict is aware of the cataclysmic effect his resignation has left?**
I think his move was quite characteristic of Benedict. He has always been bold in his decision-making. He brought back the old Latin Mass and set up the Ordinariate ... for former Anglicans worldwide.

**Who can replace him?**
The field is wide open. However, in normal circumstances, the pope dies and the church has more time to reflect, organize the papal conclave and start the debate for a successor. Now there is much less time for that. It will be very difficult to predict who will be the next leader.

**The church faces many challenges ahead, following a number of sex abuse scandals and congregation numbers dropping. What direction will it now take?**
The church can either work towards a smaller yet purer church or continue its policy of spreading the gospel. I believe the new pope will do both. There is much talk of the falling numbers of churchgoers in the Western world, but elsewhere in the world, particularly in Africa, the numbers are growing very, very rapidly. This could be a shift away from a European-centric church.

**Anthony Johnston**
METRO WORLD NEWS

## Bookies waste no time on pope bets

British and Irish bookmakers ranked Nigeria's Cardinal Francis Arinze, Peter Turkson of Ghana and Canadian Marc Ouellet yesterday as favorites to lead the Roman Catholic Church,

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Cardinal Francis Arinze

setting odds swiftly after Pope Benedict's shock resignation.

William Hill, Britain's largest bookmaker, offered odds of 3/1 against for Arinze, or a probability of 25 percent, while Ouellet and Turkson were priced at 7/2 against, meaning successful punters would win seven pounds for every two staked. Irish bookmaker Paddy Power had the same three cardinals as leading contenders but placed Ouellet as the favorite ahead of the two Africans.

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News in brief

## Senate panel votes today on Hagel

**WASHINGTON.** A Senate panel plans to vote this afternoon on the contested nomination of Chuck Hagel as President Barack Obama's new secretary of defense, the committee said yesterday. Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Armed Services Committee intends to ask the committee to vote in an open meeting at 2:30 p.m. Hagel, a Republican and former senator, has been the target of criticism from senators who raised questions over whether he is sufficiently supportive of Israel and tough on Iran. **REUTERS**

Hagel

# Economy, deficit top voters' issues ahead of SOTU address

Americans are eager to hear President Barack Obama address the U.S. economy and federal deficit in his State of the Union speech tonight, with more than half still convinced the nation is in a recession, a poll released yesterday found.

Gun policy and health care are also top concerns U.S. voters want the president to discuss in his annual speech to the nation, according to the recent survey by Quinnipiac University.

Obama, who began his second term last month after winning reelection in November, is expected to use tonight's speech to offer his plan for spurring the tepid economy, including proposals for investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, clean energy and education.

The nationwide poll found 35 percent of U.S. voters said the economy was a top concern, while 20 percent pointed to the federal deficit.

It also showed 53 percent said the U.S. economy is still in a recession even though economists have said the downturn that began in late 2007 officially ended in July 2009.

Fifteen percent said the nation's gun policies were a top priority, and 12 percent said they were most concerned about health care, Quinnipiac found.

Its poll of 1,772 registered voters has a margin of error of 2.3 percentage points.

The speech comes as lawmakers grapple with the nation's $16 trillion debt and looming across-the-board government spending cuts slated to take effect March 1. **REUTERS**

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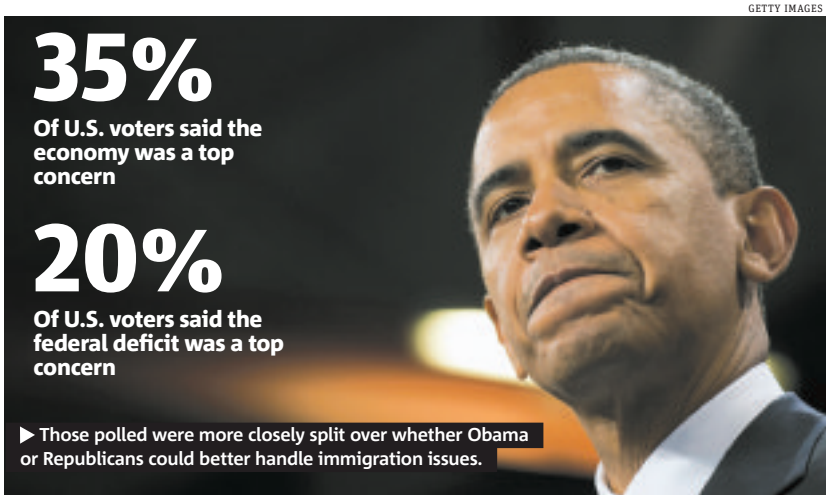


▶ Those polled were more closely split over whether Obama or Republicans could better handle immigration issues.

## Gun violence victims to attend speech

President Obama's fellow Democrats in Congress are bringing victims of gun violence to his State of the Union address tonight, providing faces and voices to the carnage that he wants to curb with new firearms restrictions.

About two dozen victims, including a girl from Newtown, Conn., the sight of a deadly school massacre, will see a divided Congress, uncertain what, if any, new gun laws to pass. And lawmakers will see victims who agree with Obama that bold action is needed now. **REUTERS**

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News in brief

## Ex-Fla. GOP chair guilty of grand theft

A former chairman of the Republican Party of Florida pleaded guilty to money laundering and theft charges yesterday, preempting a trial that threatened to reveal some potentially embarrassing details about the party that dominates politics in the state.

Greer

Jim Greer, who was indicted in 2010, entered five separate guilty pleas in an Orlando courthouse in a last-minute deal with prosecutors. Jury selection in his long-awaited trial had been scheduled to get under way a short time later.

"We had an awful lot of people that didn't want the trial to go forward," Damon Chase, Greer's defense lawyer, told reporters after the guilty pleas were entered in open court.

"Once again, James Greer is falling on his sword for a lot of other folks," he said.

Chase did not elaborate. **REUTERS**

News in brief

## Military to give more benefits to same-sex pairs

The Pentagon announced yesterday it would extend more of the benefits offered to spouses of heterosexual troops to those of gay personnel but acknowledged some key benefits, like housing, would still be off-limits, at least for now.

The step came 17 months after the Pentagon scrapped its "don't ask, don't tell" ban on openly serving homosexuals in the U.S. military and will affect the day-to-day lives of their spouses in ways big and small.

**"There are certain benefits that can only be provided to spouses as defined by law."**
**PANETTA**

**9K**
**Number of spouses of active-duty and reserve members affected, plus 8,000 retirees**

But outgoing Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, in a memorandum explaining the move, noted his actions were limited by U.S. law. **REUTERS**

# Fed: Weak demand, not taxes, keeps US firms from hiring

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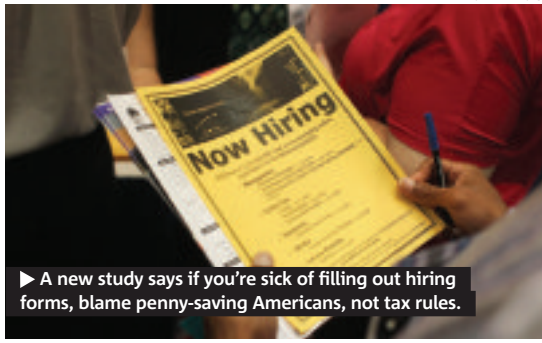

▶ A new study says if you're sick of filling out hiring forms, blame penny-saving Americans, not tax rules.

Tax and regulatory uncertainty, blamed in some quarters for keeping companies from hiring, has little to do with high U.S. unemployment, according to research by the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank published yesterday.

The main reason that U.S. unemployment has remained high is likely because households hurt by the housing crash simply are not spending, according to the research, published in the latest issue of the San Francisco Fed's Economic Letter.

The study's two authors — Atif Mian, a Princeton University professor who is currently a visiting scholar at the San Francisco Fed, and Amir Sufi, a professor at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business — found no correlation between worries about regulation and taxes, and employment growth.

States where businesses increasingly cited regulation and tax worries actually had greater job growth than states without such intensifying concerns, though the correlation was not statistically significant, they said. **REUTERS**

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**Fed will keep interest rates ultra low until unemployment drops to 6.5 percent**

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# THE WORD

**Dorothy Robinson's** take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

2

## Gossip from the Grammys

Sunday night was so big we're still talking about it Tuesday (sorry, pope).

The drama surrounds **Chris Brown**, of course, because it always does. Brown, who already rubbed most people the wrong way after refusing to give a standing ovation to **Frank Ocean** when he topped Brown for Best Urban Contemporary Album, partied hard at a Hollywood nightclub with **Rihanna**. TMZ was there to snap pictures of the two of them smoking what appears to be a joint (shocking!) and leaving the club around 3 in the morning.

**Taylor Swift** used her opening slot at the Grammys to offer a not-so-subtle dig at ex-boyfriend **Harry Styles**. Before a rousing chorus of "We are Never Ever Getting Back Together," Swift offered, "So he calls me up and he's like, 'I still love you,'" copping a British accent in an obvious nod to the One Direction member. "And I'm like, 'I'm sorry, I'm busy opening up the Grammys. And we're never getting back together. Like, ever.'" Burn!

Meanwhile, the ratings for the 2013 Grammy Awards were big, but not big enough to top 2012's numbers. Why? No dead pop icon. Last year's record audience came largely because the award show was held the day after **Whitney Houston**'s death. But still, this year's music-filled show delivered 28.4 million viewers.

Missing from Sunday night's party? **Justin Bieber**, who sat out the Grammys. Instead, the pop star decided to do a livestream Web chat with fans during the ceremony, but technical difficulties scuttled those plans. Bieber had decided to forgo the awards show after not receiving a single nomination.

**Sugar.** Ray?

▶ Hawke spoke at the "Before Midnight" press conference at the Berlin International Film Festival.

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### Ethan Hawke: Frosted blond ambition

**Yes, that is Ethan Hawke and not a member of Sugar Ray. The actor is sporting bleach-blond locks for a new role in the off-Broadway play "Clive." Although if the play were called "Chive" he could also be a double for Guy Fieri.** METRO

## Talking points

### Ross speaks out on divorce

**Liberty Ross** is speaking out for the first time since filing for divorce from **Rupert Sanders** in the wake of his affair last summer with his "Snow White and the Huntsman" star, **Kristen Stewart**. Ross says that she is "keeping her head down" and "listening to her heart," she tells the Associated Press. Meanwhile, sources tell Us Weekly that Sanders' affair was simply the last straw in an already strained marriage. "She wasn't very happy, even before all this happened," a source says.

▶ Ross

### Chastain, Lawrence still on good terms

**Jessica Chastain** doesn't appreciate the rumors out there that she and fellow Oscar nominee **Jennifer Lawrence** are feuding. "I find it very sad that media makes up bogus stories about women fighting in this industry," Chastain writes in a post to her Facebook page. "Why do we support the myth that women are competitive and cannot get along? I think all of the actresses recognized this year have given incredible performances. But more important, they've all shown themselves to be filled with generosity and kindness."

### Jolie pops up in LA, which freaks everyone out

**Angelina Jolie** has kept a fairly low profile lately, sticking around London with her family while she filmed her upcoming "Maleficent" and **Brad Pitt** worked on "World War Z." But the busy mother of six made a surprise appearance in L.A. this weekend, presenting a lifetime achievement award to cinematographer **Dean Semler** at the American Society of Cinematographers Awards, according to Us Weekly. Semler shot Jolie's directorial debut, "In the Land of Blood and Honey."

## The feed ...

***Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.***

Today, Ricky Martin is surprised the pope is stepping down, Dana Delaney has her own theory about the pope, Alec Baldwin hasn't been enjoying the snow and Sarah Silverman has simple ambitions.

**@ricky_martin**
The #Pope resigns? I didn't know that was even possible. Apparently, the last time a pope resigned was the year 1415 #IfYouRintrested

**@DanaDelaney**
Now that gays can marry, the Pope resigns. #metsomeone

**@ABFoundation**
I will not let the weather defeat me...

**@SarahKSilverman**
When I die my only wish will be to have a religion started based on me (like where I'm the star)& also my face on money

Sarah Silverman

myentertainment

# The look of love at the Grammys

ALL PHOTOS CHRISTOPHER POLK/GETTY

Looks like Ellen DeGeneres had a little something other the Grammys on her mind when she and wife Portia de Rossi found Katy Perry backstage.

Guess they're officially back on? Chris Brown and Rihanna hopefully had a better night at this year's Grammys than they did in 2009.

▶ Lena Dunham gave a smooch to her boyfriend, fun. guitarist Jack Antonoff, who picked up multiple Grammys Sunday night.

▶ Beyonce flashed that famous megawatt grin while hubby Jay-Z got a laugh.

▶ Who's hair looks prettier, Justin's or Jessica's? PS: Nice wedding ring, JT!

▶ We're so glad Kelly Clarkson is happy with new fiance Brandon Blackstock, though we will miss her angsty breakup anthems a bit.

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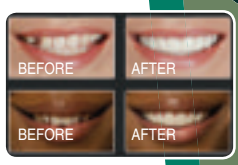


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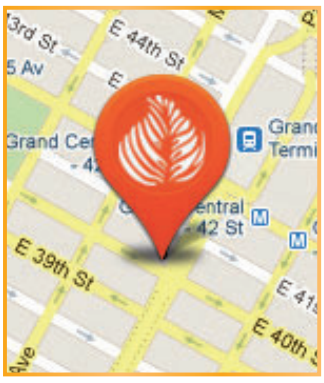

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# The universe and you

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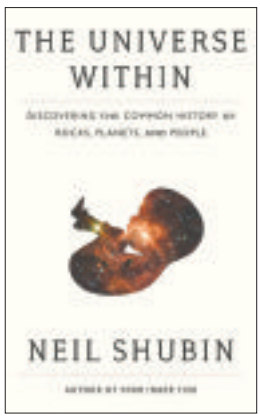

Neil Shubin explores evolution in his latest book.

It's a pretty safe bet that when Charles Darwin devised his theory of evolution, the planet Jupiter didn't factor into his thinking. But according to Neil Shubin's new book, "The Universe Within," the Earth's biggest sibling has played more of a role in our species' development than one might imagine.

"When you look at the chain of logic, each step looks perfectly obvious," says Shubin, who traces Jupiter's gravitational pull to the occasional ice ages that have strongly shaped humankind. "But when you look at the endpoints — that somehow, Jupiter is related to our own evolution — it sounds utterly bizarre."

Shubin, a paleontologist and geologist based at the University of Chicago, connects several such counterintuitive dots in "The Universe Within," which explores the unexpected links between our biology, our planet and even our universe. The book traces these stories through entertaining tales of discovery, from Shubin's own fossil digs in Greenland to a pair of scientists tossing frogs from a Chicago rooftop.

"Science, for the last few centuries, has removed our planet and our species from the center of things," Shubin says. "Copernicus showed that our planet isn't the center of the solar system, and Darwin showed that our species is just one branch on a huge tree of life. But at the same time, science has connected us in deep ways to other species, to the planet and to the solar system — and the plane beyond."

**Quoted**

**"Science has connected us in deep ways to other species, to the planet, and to the solar system and the planet beyond."**
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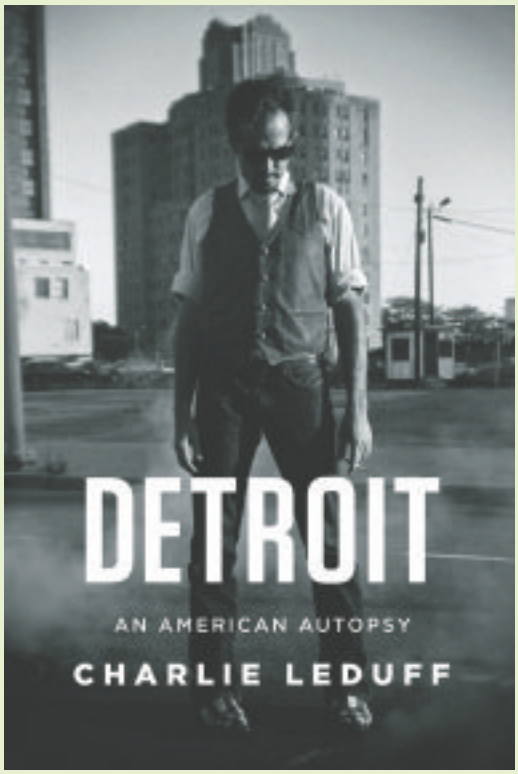
Review

# 'Detroit: An American Autopsy'




Reporting on city politics isn't supposed to include having a city councilwoman squeeze one's nether parts.

After a few pages of Charlie LeDuff's "Detroit: An American Autopsy," you get used to surprises. It's a hard-eyed look at some of the recent villains and victims of a city battered for half a century by political corruption, racial strife and industrial collapse. Even the light moments have a dark side.

LeDuff, a former New York Times reporter who was part of a team that won a Pulitzer Prize for a series about race, returned to his native town in March 2008 after a 20-year absence and took a job with the Detroit News.

Besides murder, Detroit claims downside superlatives for arson, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, foreclosures, segregation and mayoral scandal, LeDuff writes. About 250,000 people fled the city in the first decade of this century. "Empty lots are returning to prairie and woodland as the city depopulates." **BLOOMBERG**

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# Love that 'almost defies embarrassment'

## Ron Currie Jr. on 'Flimsy Little Plastic Miracles,' epic themes and the things we hide from even the people who are closest to us Why the author hightails it to the Caribbean for motivation

In his previous acclaimed novels, Ron Currie Jr. deals with such topics as God on Earth (2007's "God Is Dead") and armageddon (2009's "Everything Matters!"). It's no surprise that his latest work, "Flimsy Little Plastic Miracles," takes on another epic theme: love, or as Currie puts it, "a certain kind of love."

Here, it is the obsessive, painful, almost mythic love between a reclusive writer (basically Currie with fantastical embellishments) and his high school sweetheart, Emma, who has come back amidst her divorce 20 years later. It's a love that is either too intense — both in a mental way and in a "Fifty Shades" way — or not intense enough to sustain itself, depending on the day.

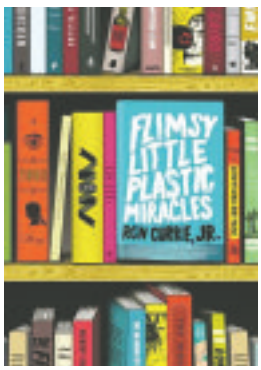
"This is an honest effort to dissect [love], to filet it, to lay it open and display it in a way that almost defies embarrassment," says the 37-year-old author from his native Maine. "What I'm really interested in is all the parts of love that we hide from other people, even the people who are closest to us."

Presented in meticulously worded single-page thoughts that skip through different points in time before connecting together in one Vonnegut-esque mosaic of a story, Currie describes his own ruminations on love as the "literary equivalent of an AA meeting." It's a metaphor that doubly resonates with the day-drinking depression of the novel's protagonist as he languishes in the Caribbean, ruminates on the death of his father and even goes so far as to fake his own death (before watching himself become posthumously famous).

With trademark warmth and subtle humor, Currie makes grandiose themes eminently readable. "I'm guilty of taking on the big topics, almost compulsively. There is very little else that's worth writing about."

LISA PROSIENSKI

"I'm guilty of taking on the big topics," says Ron Currie Jr.




### Viva Vieques

**For the past four winters, Currie has lived in Vieques, an island off of Puerto Rico. Much like the version of himself in "Flimsy Little Plastic Miracles," the novelist goes there to write and to escape the brutal Maine winters.**

"It's sort of counterintuitive to think that going to the Caribbean is good for one's work ethic, but for me it is," says Currie of the small getaway where he finds the fortitude needed to beat the telltale doubts that come with writing a great novel. "It doesn't matter if you are Chekhov or Saul Bellow."

**Jonathan Donaldson**
*letters@metro.us*

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## TV watch list

### State of the Union Address

**POLITICS.** It's like oratorical "Connect the Dots," but the dots are abstract nouns like "freedom," "liberty" and "opportunity." **9 p.m., ABC, NBC, CBS**

### 'Double Divas'

**REALITY.** This docu-series centers on a famous Atlanta lingerie boutique. We suspect the concept was born at the end of a bland pitch meeting when some exasperated exec blurted, "people still like boobs, right? Let's run with that." **10 p.m., Lifetime**

### 'Starter Wives Confidential'

**REALITY.** TLC has a lock on the trashy voyeur demographic. Watch these jilted exes move on after splitting with celebrities. We're especially excited about Liza Morales, former flame of Lamar Odom. Does she have a bone to pick with Khloe Kardashian? If she does reality TV right, she does. **10 p.m., TLC**

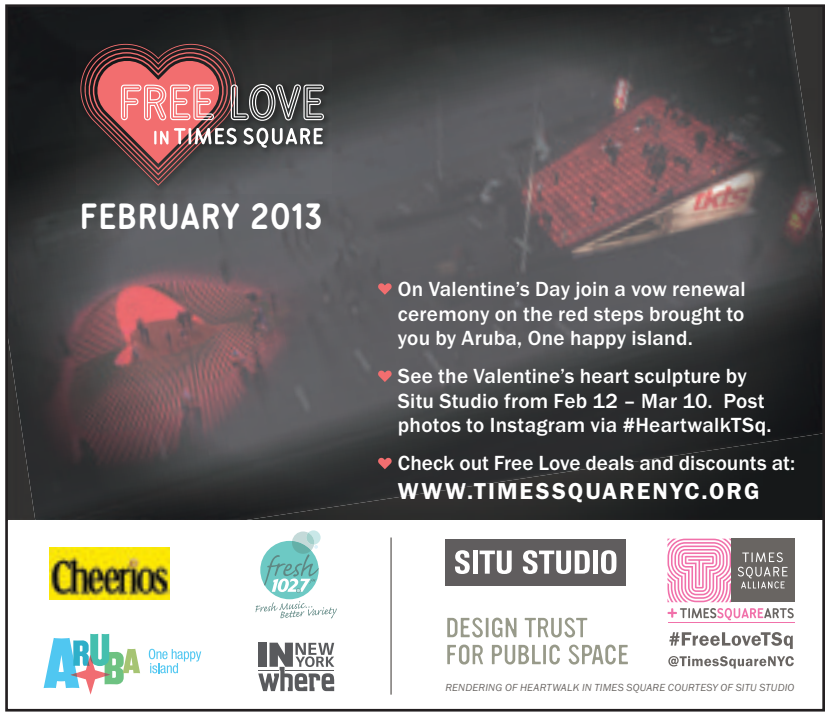
### 'United States of Bacon'

**REALITY.** Every episode features a new road trip with a destination that includes a new spin on America's most prized cured meat. Tour the many lives of bacon with Chef Todd Fisher, and resent him for getting to taste what you can't. **9 p.m., Destination America**

**NATALIE SHURE**

▶ Divas Molly Hopkins and Cynthia Richards are the "Double Divas."

KAROLINA WOJTASIK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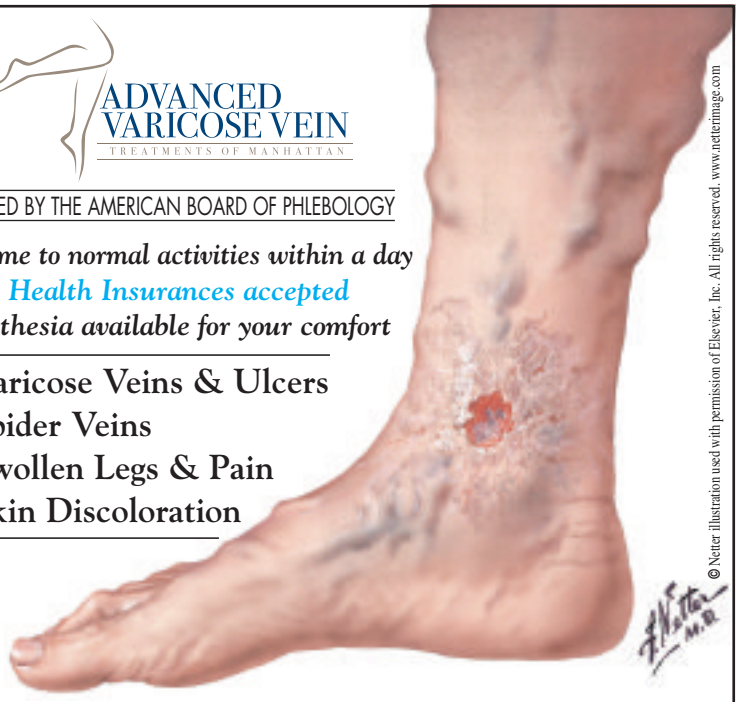

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# NYFW: Fashion

## Spotted front row

1. Jaime King at Lela Rose
2. Julianne Moore and Bart Freundlich
3. Christina Ricci and Brad Goreski at Thakoon
4. Angela Basset at Tracy Reese

1

2

3

4

5. Iris Apfel at Joanna Mastroianni

## Fashion Week diary

**SUNDAY, FEB. 10**

**11:45 a.m.**
"But I thought the shows take place at Lincoln Center?" my cab driver asks me as we whiz downtown to my first show of the day. Honestly, I don't know why the fashion industry even bothers calling Lincoln Center its Fashion Week headquarters when the majority of the shows happen off-site. Most New Yorkers imagine Lincoln Center as the hub of it all. But I've been in New York for three days and have yet to go to a single show at Lincoln Center. That's because the bulk of Fashion Week really takes place downtown. Last night, I found myself hustling down to the Financial District to see **Alexander Wang**, which was followed immediately by **Alexandre Herchcovitch** at the designer's official headquarters. The distance and time constraints make for a hassle of a commute, especially in the snow. This morning, **Derek Lam** is happening — you guessed it — off-site in Chelsea, the neighborhood that should really be called ground zero for the shows (or at least that's where I've spent most of my collection-seeing time so far). KENYA HUNT

**SATURDAY, FEB. 9**

**6:20 p.m.**
I'm on my way to Pier 59 (which feels like the other side of the universe) for the **Tibi** show, and my chatty cab driver wants to know about the trends on the runway. I give her a little recap. So far there's a whole lot of texture and black and, surprisingly, quite wearable clothes, but nothing blowing my mind so far that I want to gush about. At Tibi these major themes continue to play out on the runway through Amy Smilovic's urban lens. For fall, her girl is the leader of the downtown pack and a stylish neoprene sweatshirt, her armor. She also wears sleek, quilted bomber jackets, glossy leather culottes and low-slung skinny pants. Layering is a big aspect, and most looks include detachable smock turtlenecks or my personal favorite — a hoodie!

▶ Tibi

**12:10 p.m.**
**Derek Lam**'s show is a tight collection of workwear separates that strike the perfect balance between professional and edgy. Polished pieces such as a shift dress with overlapping zigzag panels and a two-tone tunic and trouser pairing looked as if they were designed for the career editors sitting in the audience. But there were also looks for the girls who would never be caught dead in an office conference room, namely little textured mini-dresses that were made for door-to-door service. KH

**12:45 p.m.**
Outside Derek Lam, the street-style frenzy is even more high energy than usual. I hear a commotion and assume the photographers are chasing Beyonce or some other equally famous and popular celeb. Instead, the photogs were hunting down the model of the moment **Cara Delevingne**, who in her relatively new career has walked in too many shows to count. She's running out of the show venue and into an SUV, which drives the photographers mad, prompting some of the industry's most popular photo bloggers to start yelling like true paparazzi. Some run into ongoing traffic to get the shot. This can't end well. And with that, I head to my next stop, DKNY, which is happening in (yup) Chelsea. Take it away, Tina. KH

**1 p.m.**
Cara Delevingne opens the **DKNY** show — she really is everywhere. I consider listing her as one of the items trending on the runway. But it also makes total

*Metro's style director **Kenya Hunt** and style editor **Tina Chadha** are reporting from New York Fashion Week. Read their daily dispatches for the latest on what's coming down the runway and follow them on Twitter for more:*
**@KENYAMETROSTYLE**
**@TINAATMETRO**

Derek Lam

## Trend: Hot pink

DKNY

Diane von Furstenberg

Tracey Reese

## Trend: Quilting

Catherine Malandrino

Louise Goldin

Rag & Bone

# through an urban lens

sense since the model stars in the campaign for the brand's new capsule collection with Opening Ceremony, which is a greatest hits compilation of sorts. Once the show gets rolling, it's hard to keep up with the trends flying down. Like busy New Yorkers who aim to do it all, this collection covers a lot: color-blocked work separates, neoprene dresses that hug the body and elongated sweater dresses that fall below the knee. The color palette is also busy, ranging from subtle neutrals to bold tomato reds, with a little playful hot pink mixed in. The items that stand out the most, though, are the coats and jackets, including quilted bombers, slick anoraks and cropped parkas. Those would stop traffic. **TINA CHADHA**

DKNY

Tracy Reese

Cara Delevingne

**2 p.m.**
There's been so much black on the runway these past three days that I'm really looking forward to **Tracy Reese**'s signature colorful looks. It takes forever to get to my seat because photographers are having a field day taking pictures. I look around to see what young starlet is causing this roadblock — turns out it's Angela Bassett! I add to the rubbernecking. And Reese doesn't disappoint: Models wear feminine full skirts, relaxed trousers and leggy shifts in riotous bright animal prints and floral patterns.

Citing "sexy, strong and eccentric New York City girls" as her inspiration, Reese accessorized her models in quirky '60s cat-eye shades, chic, furry hats and, in one case, with a cat on a leash! Turns out it's a partnership with Purina One to educate on how cats can be leash-trained. You really can't get more eccentric than that. **TC**

**3:30 p.m.**
My cameraman is shooting B-roll outside of **Diane von Furstenberg** for a new video series that we're doing (more about that soon). I need him to capture that other catwalk presentation that takes place outside of the shows, most commonly known as street style. I'm always amazed by the number of people who have shown up, dressed like their lives depended on it, with no invitation in hand and no plans to actually walk inside. And everyone keeps doing the same pose, with the legs ajar, hip cocked to the side and feet turned inward. **KH**

**7:45 p.m**
I can't help wishing Team **Tommy Hilfiger** would replace the pre-show music with a broadcast of the Grammys. Instead, my editor friends and I follow it on Twitter as we kill time. Stephanie Seymour's It kids, Peter and Harry Brant, sit down across from me. And Russell Simmons rushes in to take his seat beside them. There are also a lot of "Real Housewives" lookalikes in the room. People-watching aside, if the Prince of Wales check on the hardbound invitation and Ivy League-like crests painted on the runway backdrop are any indication, this collection is going to take us all back to school. **KH**

▶ At Tommy Hilfiger, Anglophilia comes stateside.

**SUNDAY, FEB. 10**
**8:15 p.m.**
Savile Row is trending this week. Rag & Bone referenced Britain's iconic school of tailoring in their collection. Now, Tommy's girls are storming the runway in mannish coats that merge classic English prints such as houndstooth, pinstripes and the aforementioned check, with all-American flag colors. The marriage between American preppy sportswear and British tailoring makes perfect sense, like that pair of platonic friends who should have hooked up ages ago. His trademark Ivy League staples (the blazer, double-breasted coat and parka, for instance) take on a new meaning when placed within the older context of England's Oxbridge schools, London's Mod scene and Wales' hunting grounds. It's one of Tommy's best collections in recent memory, right down to his clever knee-high penny loafer boots. **KH**

myparenting

# Birth defects in multiples is on the rise, study shows

The number of birth defects among multiple births such as twins and triplets increased nearly twofold in a score of European countries over a 24-year period, according to an international study.

Researchers writing in BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology used data on more than 5.4 million births occurring between 1984 and 2007 to find that congenital defects rose from around six to about 11 in every 10,000 multiple births.

"The importance of knowing this is twofold," said senior author Helen Dolk, from the Centre for Maternal Fetal and Infant Research at the University of Ulster.

"First, to make sure we have appropriate services available for mothers and babies. The second is to understand the relationship," she added.

BRAND X PICTURES

▶ There has been a rise in defects among multiple births.

For the study, they looked at the trends in births in 14 European nations between 1984 and 2007. Of the 5.4 million births, the number of multiple births increased by about 50 percent over that time. Ultimately, 3 percent of the births were multiple births.

Over the 24-year period, though, the number of birth defects among multiples about doubled, with a peal between 2000 and 2003 of some 12 birth defects per 10,000 multiple births.

The largest increase was in birth defects not caused by chromosomal abnormalities, such as physical deformations — which increased from about six per 10,000 multiple births between 1985 to 1987 to about 11 per 10,000 multiples at the end of the study. REUTERS

## IVF to blame?

Some of the rise may be attributed to the increased use of in vitro fertilization which is known to come with an increased risk of anomalies, the researchers said. They wrote that people going through the IVF process might consider only transferring one embryo . While this might not cut down on the risk of birth defects, it could affect the pregnancy outcome.

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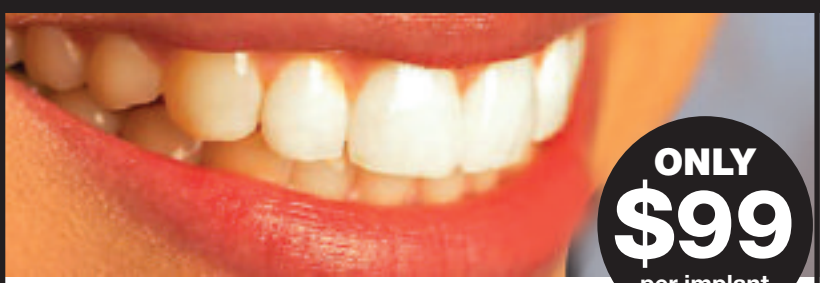

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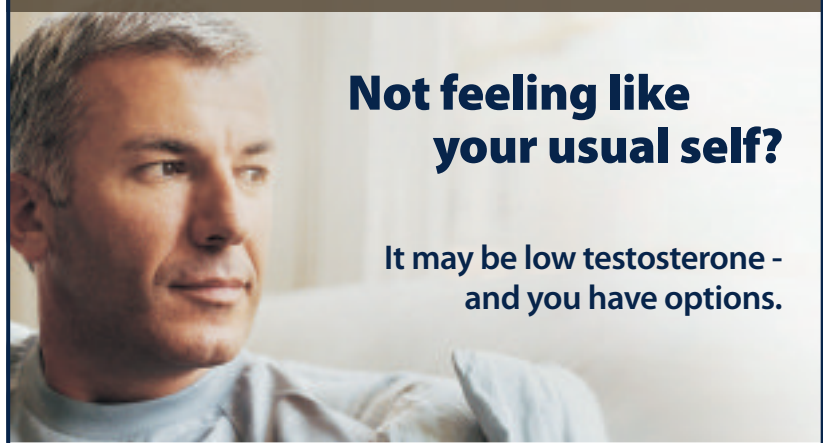

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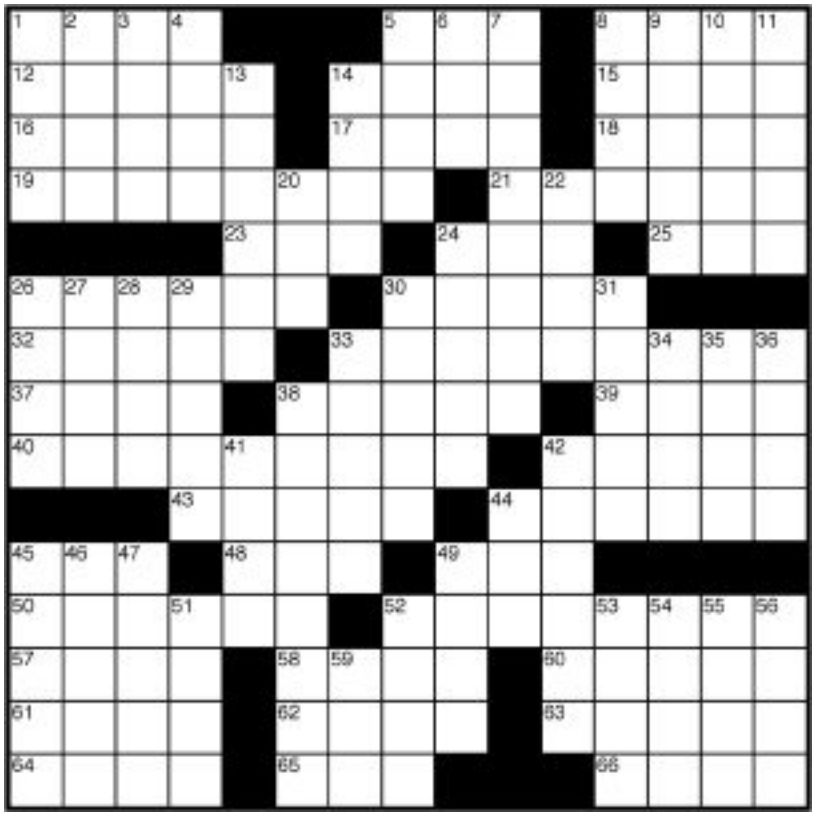
**Across**
1 Picket-line crosser
5 Monsieur's nose
8 Genealogy abbr.
12 Utter chaos
14 Graceful wrap
15 Foot part
16 Important period
17 Wheels for baby
18 Ibsen heroine
19 Lamented
21 Shores up
23 Giant bird of myth
24 Sigh of content
25 Finish a dress
26 Chic
30 Flowed back
32 Pocket problems
33 Type of boxer
37 Slippery — — eel
38 Huge-antlered deer
39 Mme. Gluck of opera
40 Waves
42 Eavesdrop
43 Shin neighbor
44 Pass by, as time
45 Caviar
48 Draftees
49 Veldt grazer
50 Contemporary
52 Some CPAs
57 Meadow browsers
58 Roman historian
60 Henry — Lodge
61 Solidifies
62 Is very thrifty
63 Mademoiselle's school
64 Toward shelter
65 Survey choice
66 Mr. Sulu's place



**Down**
1 — Wooley of 1950s pop
2 Promontory
3 Admit openly
4 — Raton, Fla.
5 Ancient ointment
6 Baseball stat
7 Rhodesia, now
8 Ms. Merrill
9 Tennyson's "— Arden"
10 Fallen-rock debris
11 Gorge
13 Peeps
14 Blueprint, briefly
20 Myrna of old movies
22 Syngman — of Korea
24 Yawning gulf
26 "Pygmalion" author
27 Grab a cookie
28 Jai —
29 Five, in combos
30 Wed in haste
31 Ross or Rigg
33 Young horses
34 Mashed potato serving
35 RN employers
36 Masking —
38 Highest point in North America
41 Amtrak driver
42 Floodgate
44 Call it quits
45 Rolex rival
46 I or U
47 "Skyfall" singer
49 People, informally
51 To be, to Brutus
52 Wide sts.
53 RPM meter
54 Woodwind
55 Cinnamon goody
56 Flower part
59 Turner of music

## Horoscope

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Small factors could have more significance than usual in your commercial or financial dealings. All those pennies you save or make will really add up.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Even though you might not be aware of the weight that your words carry, your thoughts and suggestions will have a strong, constructive impact on persons with whom you're involved.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Certain confidential information you become privy to can be used to everyone's advantage, especially yours. It behooves you to keep it to yourself for the time being.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Try to associate with friends whose views and opinions parallel yours. Valuable information can be exchanged through frank discussions.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** You're likely to discover that if confronted by a challenge, you'll be able to work it out much quicker in front of an appreciative audience than you would alone.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** It's important that you treat any team effort extremely seriously, whether it involves a sport or a business. Your opponents will be playing to winl.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** If you've been anxious to get the support of someone about a change that you'd like to make, this is the day to do it. Spell out all the details, even the unattractive ones.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** This could turn out to be a rather successful day — you'll not only have good ideas, you'll know how to implement them in ways that improve present conditions.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Small gains have a way of adding up, so don't get discouraged if the initial returns aren't up to your expectations. Consistency will prove to be more important in the long run.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** It isn't likely that spontaneous involvements will generate much pleasure for you. You're apt to find far more enjoyment in well-planned activities.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** A great deal of valuable information can be attained by observing how a successful friend handles his or her relationships. The techniques used by your pal can be tailored to fit you.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** If you decide to pay a surprise visit to an old friend whom you haven't seen in a long time, you'll be welcomed. Your pal will be glad for the opportunity to catch up.

**BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

**Solution to yesterday's crossword**

## Letters

### Piles of snow can't bury kindness

As my wife and I prepared to depart for North Carolina, we were in the midst of digging out on Saturday from a 12-inch-plus snowfall when a complete stranger drove up to our driveway and asked if we needed help. Of course I said yes, and without a word he helped us shovel out. There are good individuals willing to help out, and this was yet another example. Thank you, sir.

**HERB STARK, VIA E-MAIL**

### Debt reduction, strong economy not exclusive

**RE: "PUT OUT THE FIRE BEFORE YOU REBUILD YOUR HOUSE" (METRO, FEB. 11)** Letter writer Glenn Hayes is saying the same thing the GOP is saying and their intent is to prevent the passing on of debt. Hayes appears to be confused. The GOP strongly supports job creation and opportunity. Republicans do not want the unemployment rate to be 7.9 percent, which is actually higher when the ones who have given up hope are included.

**PETER MOLLE, VIA E-MAIL**

### US: Rich in guns, poor in answers

I am so tired of reading about more and more shootings, of children, teachers, bus drivers and firefighters — firefighters who risk their lives to save people and who carry no weapons — of movie-goers, Congress people and more. There have been 1,000 people killed by guns since the horror of Newtown! And people think more guns are the answer. More guns will only lead to the morgue. We have hundreds of millions of guns, but not enough food to eat or books or homes or health care — or a clean enviroment.

**SHIFRA FREEWOMAN, VIA E-MAIL**

### Winter warning: Ensure exhaust pipes are clear

Before you turn the key on in your car when you want to warm it up while you are facing digging it out, CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR EXHAUST PIPE IS FREE OF SNOW. Then turn the car on, go back and see if it is exhausting freely and if not, use a stick to clear the snow out of the pipe. That way you are ensuring that the carbon monoxide is not building up.

**PATRICIA DASKO, VIA E-MAIL**

## SUDOKU: HARD

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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destinations

# USVI: ADVENTURE FOR YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY

**The relative ease of getting to St. Thomas — hello, direct flights! — and the destination's exotic feel make it appealing for those families looking for something unconventional**

ROB ROBINSON

▶ To help plan your family getaway, go to www.visitusvi.com.

### Must-do No. 1

**Coral World Ocean Park**

This informative little park is just the right size for your children to learn about marine life and other animals. A big hit is the screened-in aviary, where tropical birds perch on your hand to sip out of a cup of nectar. For a memorable experience, book the Sea Lion Encounter, where you can swim with (and kiss!) Romulo, Remo, Omar or Franco.

### Must-do No.3

**A day visit to St. John**

Locals say that St. John is more "laid-back" than St. Thomas, which seems almost impossible, but it's true: The island is mainly comprised of a national park, lending it a more peaceful vibe. Learn more about the area's Danish history at the Annaberg Sugar Plantation Ruins, or take a family hike on some of the 22 trails of the Virgin Islands National Park. Public ferries are available, but many St. Thomas hotels offer private boat trips.

### Don't forget

**The VI Ecotour**

The patient guides from the Virgin Islands Ecotours give a little nature lesson while you kayak through St. Thomas' protected inner lagoon marine preserve. The kayaking is topped off with a scenic snorkel around the lagoon.

Traveling with children is hard. The luggage! The airport! The cost! It routinely tests even the calmest of parents. But despite the difficulty, loading up the kids for a little break is a rite of family bonding. The family wish list: Somewhere fun for the kids, but relaxing enough for their stressed parents; somewhere unconventional, but where you don't need to go through tons of bureaucratic red tape to get around.

Check out the United States Virgin Islands, which proclaim they are "America's Caribbean." Comprising four islands, the USVI are a U.S. territory, meaning you can partake in wonders that scream international getaway (Caribbean seas, mountainous views, laid-back locals) while forgoing the hassles of visiting a different country (passports, currency exchange, your obsolete hair dryer plug). Their most popular island, St. Thomas, is great for families.

## What to expect

St. Thomas is more than a port of call for various cruise ships, although that's certainly one of the island's main attractions: It's normal to see six or more ships docked in a day. Your family will enjoy watching the big boats come and go from the scenic Charlotte Amalie Harbor. The cruise traffic brings the good and the bad (the influx of people can tie up traffic and sidewalks) but the good news is that the island has built a booming tourist infrastructure that can help when trying to explore the island with kids in tow. And the duty-free shopping in Charlotte Amalie is especially attractive to the some 20,000 people who swarm the island daily in high season.

**Dorothy Robinson**
*dorothy.robinson@metro.us*

## Getting around

In St. Thomas you drive on the lefthand side of the road — in an American car. And the roads are daring; there are steep switchbacks and sharp turns. Kids will eat this up; white-knuckled parents, not so much. But a car is necessary to get around and to visit the different beaches. Do some research to decide which is best. Want to snorkel? Try **Coki Point Beach**. Sunbathe? **Magens Bay** has white sand and calm waters. **Lindbergh Beach, Sapphire Beach** and **Magens Bay** are good for kids.

### Must-do No. 2

**Sunset sail with Heavenly Days**

Hop aboard the 53-foot catamaran, known as Heavenly Days, for the popular sunset cruise. Kids will love watching sea planes land and take off, and parents will appreciate the nonstop drinks, poured by the friendly and knowledgeable crew. The three-hour tour takes you through beautiful Charlotte Amalie Harbor, with views of historical Hassel Island and Water Island.

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destinations

# San Juan: Your 'something blue'

**Is a destination wedding in your future? Puerto Rico has a warm, nuptial-friendly area Three properties that may have you saying a tropical 'I do'**

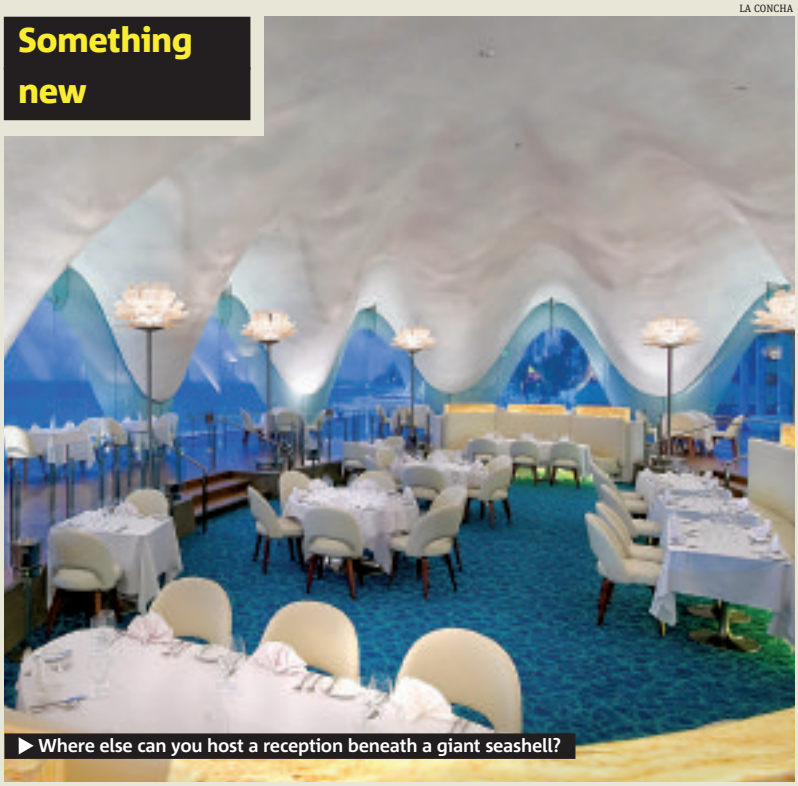
You've got plenty of time to stress about flowers, colors and dresses — first and foremost, let's get the location of your wedding nailed down. If you're torn between choosing a local venue to accommodate your guests and jetting off to someplace warmer and more exotic for your upcoming nuptials, it's time to take a closer look at the clear, blue skies and waters of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

With year-round, summer-like weather, quick and affordable access from the East Coast and no need for a passport, this historic city could be the answer to your destination dreams. The island boasts sparkling beaches, tropical rainforests and vibrant nightlife — enough to get any bridesmaid or groomsman committed to making the trip. And with flights from $200, your guests will thank you for picking a venue that's easy on the budget and perfect for extending their long weekend. Bonus: Destination weddings are a great excuse for keeping the guest list tight to include only those guests you really want to invite and not, for example, the work friends of certain relatives. (We're looking at you, Mom and Dad.)

**Cassandra Garrison**
*cassandra.garrison@metro.us*

## Something new

LA CONCHA



▶ Where else can you host a reception beneath a giant seashell?

### La Concha

The ultimate in luxury, this chic hotel feels more like a Hollywood hangout — perfect for the bride who spares no details and wants to wow her guests.

The AAA Four Diamond property sits on the beach but also boasts more than four pools and a stunning banquet room for up to 800 of your closest friends and family members.

Easy indoor/outdoor access lets you plan without stressing over the weather. After your wedding party has danced the night away, they can retire upstairs to the property's well-appointed guest rooms while the newlyweds get cozy in a luxurious suite.

**1077 Ashford Ave.**
**San Juan, Puerto Rico**
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## Something borrowed

### El Convento

EL CONVENTO

▶ Begin your marriage rooted in the history of this Old San Juan gem.

Nestled in the heart of Old San Juan, this historic boutique hotel is ideal for an intimate, romantic wedding. Appropriately named, the 58-room property was converted from a 360-year-old Carmelite convent. If you've always dreamed of exchanging vows in a vine-covered courtyard beneath twinkling lights and the nighttime sky, El Convento is the venue for you. But intimate doesn't have to mean small — the hotel's largest event space can accommodate a party of 250. Plus, the property's certified wedding planner will help you get all the details just right.

**100 Calle Del Santo Cristo**
**San Juan, Puerto Rico**
**800-468-2779**

## Something old

CONDADO VANDERBILT

▶ Exchange vows at the glamorous Condado Vanderbilt.

### Condado Vanderbilt

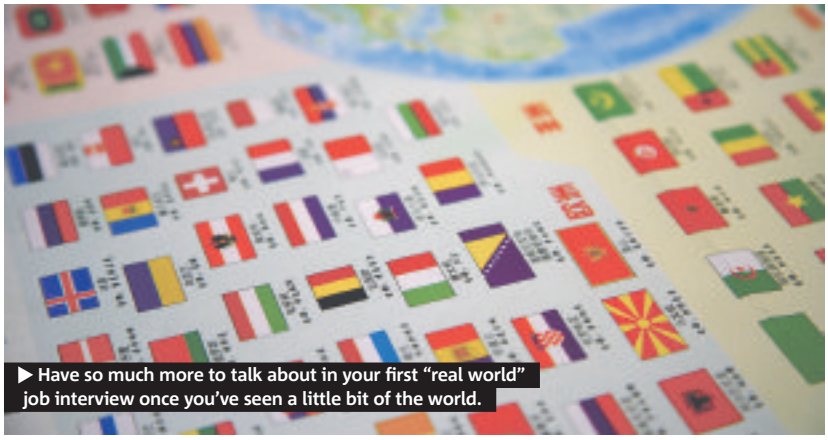
Indulge your guests with first-class dining by Michelin-starred executive chef Juan Jose Cuevas. With a perfect location along the ocean, it's no wonder the hotel has attracted the likes of royalty, heads of state and celebrities. It's been newly renovated just in time for you to star in your own big day.

**1055 Ashford Ave.**
**San Juan, Puerto Rico**
**787-724-1919**

# 5 Skills you will learn if you study abroad

Many students in Europe and abroad take a gap year to travel before going into the "real world," but in the U.S. that isn't quite as common. If traveling abroad is right for you, there is great deal of experience that can be gained. Best of all, the skills you learn will look great on a résumé when you return from your world tour.

THINKSTOCK



▶ Have so much more to talk about in your first "real world" job interview once you've seen a little bit of the world.

**1 Independence**
Sure, maybe you have a little experience taking care of your own place, but nothing screams independence quite like packing up and completely immersing yourself in a foreign land.

Even if you travel with friends, being abroad will give you a sense of independence because you must be completely self-reliant.

**2 Adaptability**
Being on your own in a new city means you need to be able to roll with the punches. Being able to think on the fly and make instant decisions is what builds character on the road. No matter how good your travel guide is, some things you just can't plan for. You need to be able to regroup after every curveball they serve you.

**3 Meticulous planning**
For some travelers, planning a route is a complete nightmare and many prefer the option of letting the wind decide where they end up. But even if your adventure will be decidedly boho, flying by the seat of your pants requires a lot of split-second decision making: six hours on a somewhat dangerous speed boat down the Mekong River in Laos or two days on a slow boat for half the price?

Being able to weigh your options and make an informed decision is exactly the kind of discretion hiring managers are looking for.

**4 Initiative**
It isn't always a cultural expectation to take time off between school and work to travel, so the decision to take that step shows great distinction of character. You don't follow the crowd and you make your own decisions — key traits of a born leader. You are able to make things happen for yourself if you are committed to a concept, and qualities like that are definitely résumé-worthy.

**5 Dedication**
It's not easy for a student or recent grad to head out right after school, but the resolve to go travelling shows you are motivated to accomplish your dreams despite the factors stacked against you.

DANIELA LUCHETTA FOR TalentEgg

*Talentegg.com is a job board and online career resource for college students and recent graduates.*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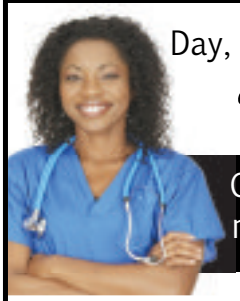

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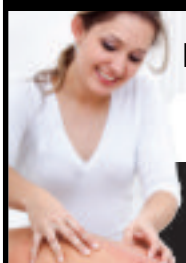

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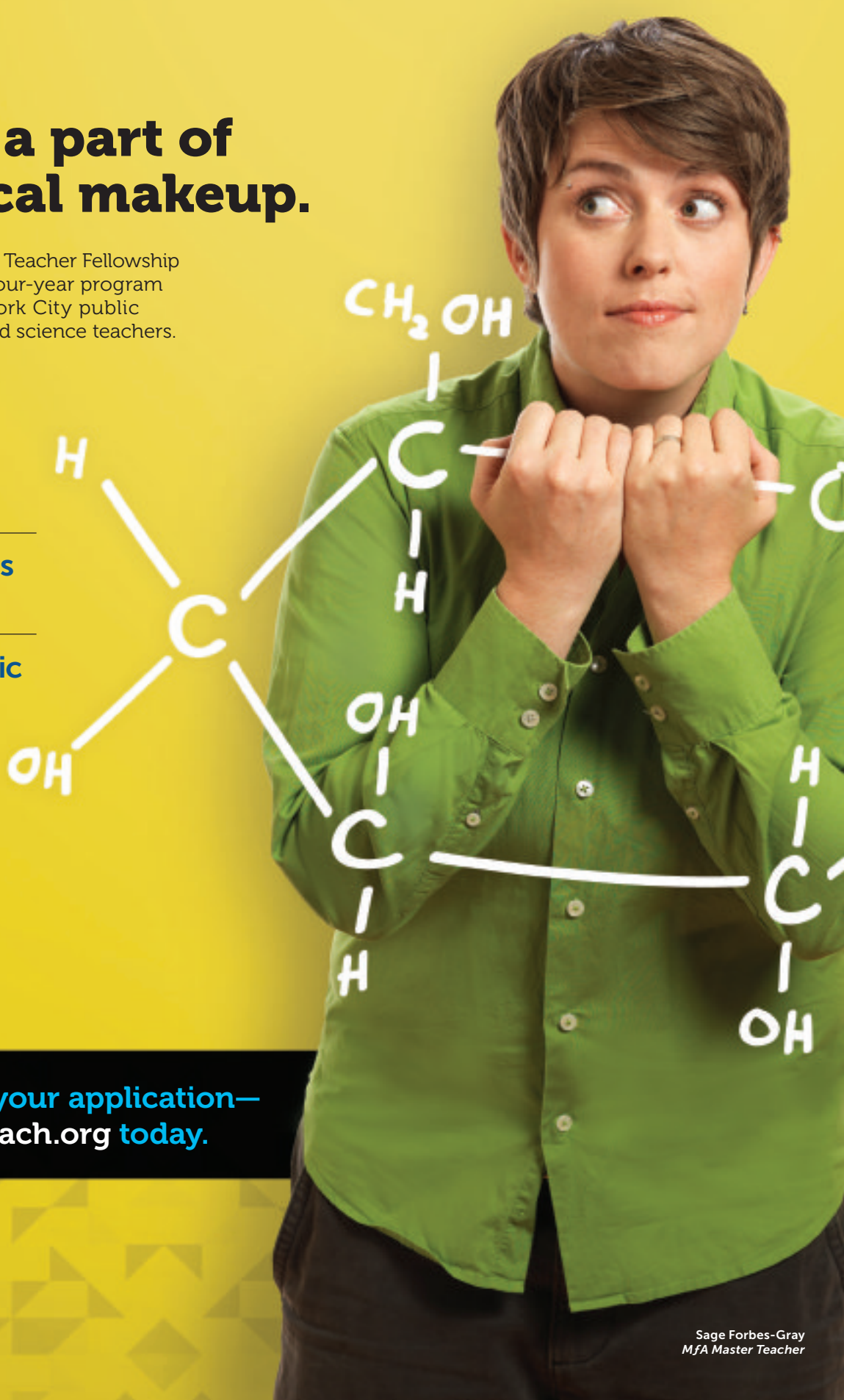


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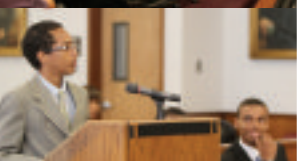

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Wednesday, 7 p.m., April 17, 2013, Sullivan Cafe
**Contact Dr. Kelly Ronayne at (718) 990-2303**

**Manhattan Campus**
Tuesday, 6–8 p.m., March 19, 2013, Room 123
Tuesday, 6–8 p.m., May 7, 2013, Room 123
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**Staten Island Campus**
Wednesday, 6–8 p.m., March 20, 2013, DaSilva Center
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## School of Education Open House Date:

**February 14, 2013**

**Location: Music Building, East Dining Room**

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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3

## In the news

**Vick re-signs with Eagles**

Mike Vick will not be joining the Jets' circus next season.

The Eagles quarterback, who Jets owner Woody Johnson was reportedly interested in, signed a one-year deal to return to Philadelphia and new coach Chip Kelly yesterday.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Williams is averaging 16.7 points per game, the lowest since his second NBA season.

### Williams will be out until after All-Star break

Deron Williams had ankle issues before the season started. It just didn't cost him any games until now.

The Nets announced Williams would miss last night's game at Indiana and Wednesday's game against Denver with synovitis, which is inflammation of ankle joint linings. Williams received platelet-rich plasma injections on both ankles yesterday and is expected to miss just the two games.

"We just felt this is probably the best time to give him off because he's not going to have a full week in the second half of the season," general manager Billy King told reporters before last night's game.

Williams is expected back for next Tuesday's home game with Milwaukee.

Before the season opener, a MRI show that Williams had bone spurs in his left ankle. General manager Billy King told reporters that he thought Williams would likely have to undergo offseason surgery, but that the issue would be manageable.

The Nets have managed the ankle by having him sit out practices, but the injury may also been caused by increased activity. During the lockout last season, he played in Turkey and then did not get much rest playing in the 2012 Olympics last summer.

"He hasn't had the same explosiveness that he had last year, so obviously there's something's affecting him," King said.

LARRY FLEISHER

# Shumpert not on trade block

## Knicks dismiss trade rumors day after report surfaces ◐ Guard a 'big part' of team's defense

NATHANIEL S. BUTLER/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A Knicks official told Metro trading Shumpert to the Suns for Jared Dudley "doesn't make sense" for the team.

The Knicks have battled inconsistencies for months now, so it's natural to think that a change-up may be needed. Just don't count on Iman Shumpert being moved as a way to shake up things.

Following a report over the weekend that the Suns were inquiring about a trade scenario involving Shumpert, Knicks head coach Mike Woodson had to shoot down the rumors — with a caveat.

"Iman's a big part of what we do [and] I've got a lot of faith in Iman. This organization does, too. We'll get him where he needs to be, [but] it's going to take a little time. He's been kind of on a little roller-coaster ride, so my job is to continue to show him some love and assure him he's a part of what we do," Woodson said, adding the catch. "If owners came to me and said we have to do a deal, then you do the deal. [But] as I told my daughter [who is friends with Shumpert from their Georgia Tech days], 'Iman's going to be right here with me.'"

**4.3** Shumpert is owed just $4.3 million total over the final two years of his contract (2013-15), well below market value.

Tony Williams
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## Metro's NBA power rankings | by Jimmy Toscano

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**1 SPURS (40-12)**
Tim Duncan is banged up, as is Manu Ginobili, but Tony Parker is carrying the load and having the best season of his career — and that's saying something. The fourth game of their "Rodeo Road Trip" was last night in Chicago, coming on the heels of a drubbing of the Nets in Brooklyn.

**2 THUNDER (39-12)**
Leave Phoenix alone! The Thunder beat up on the Suns Friday, partied Saturday, and then beat them up again on Sunday.

**3 HEAT (34-14)**
Miami took down both L.A. teams over the weekend, creating a bit of breathing room at the top of the Eastern Conference.

**4 CLIPPERS (36-17)**
Everybody on the Clippers who couldn't step up in the absence of Chris Paul can relax now. He's back.

**5 NUGGETS (33-19)**
The winning streak ended at nine, but not before a hard-fought loss on the road in the second night of a back-to-back.

**6 GRIZZLIES (32-18)**
Ten of their next 12 games are against teams currently with losing records. In other words, enjoy the next month.

**7 BULLS (30-20)**
Michael Jordan will turn 50 years old over the weekend. We still think he could take half the players in the NBA.

**8 PACERS (31-20)**
Gerald Green has to top his "birthday cake" dunk in this year's contest. I propose drop-kicking Tyler Hansbrough while dunking.

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CHECK OUT THE REST OF OUR NBA RANKS

## Sports in brief

### Mets report to camp, Jeter off and running

**MLB.** The Mets opened camp in Port St. Lucie, Fla., yesterday with pitchers and catchers reporting, officially beginning the baseball season.

To be fair, much of the team, including position players, have been arrived throughout the last week.

"Even Ruben Tejada beat me down here," Daniel Murphy joked to reporters.

Tejada, of course, was a late arrival in camp last year, much to the chagrin of manager Terry Collins.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the state, Yankees pitchers and catchers will report to camp today. But Derek Jeter is one of a handful of players already in Tampa ahead of the reporting date.

Jeter spoke with reporters yesterday and said he is full speed ahead in recovery from the broken ankle which ended his 2012 season.

"I've gotten the OK to do everything," Jeter said. "It's a progression. I haven't used my legs, so I've got to get back to using them." METRO

NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Thomas hasn't played since 2010, when he had five interceptions and four forced fumbles.

### Giants re-sign CB Thomas

**NFL.** The Giants restructured cornerback Terrell Thomas's contract yesterday in order to keep him on their roster.

Thomas, who hasn't played in two straight seasons thanks to ACL injuries, was due a $6 million contract bonus next month which the Giants did not want to pay. Instead, he signed a one-year deal, with unreleased terms. METRO

### Diehl pleads guilty in DWI

**NFL.** Giants lineman David Diehl pleaded guilty to aggravated DWI in Queens court yesterday stemming from a June 2012 arrest.

The deal allows Diehl to avoid jail time, however, he will have his license suspended for six months and has to complete two safety classes. METRO


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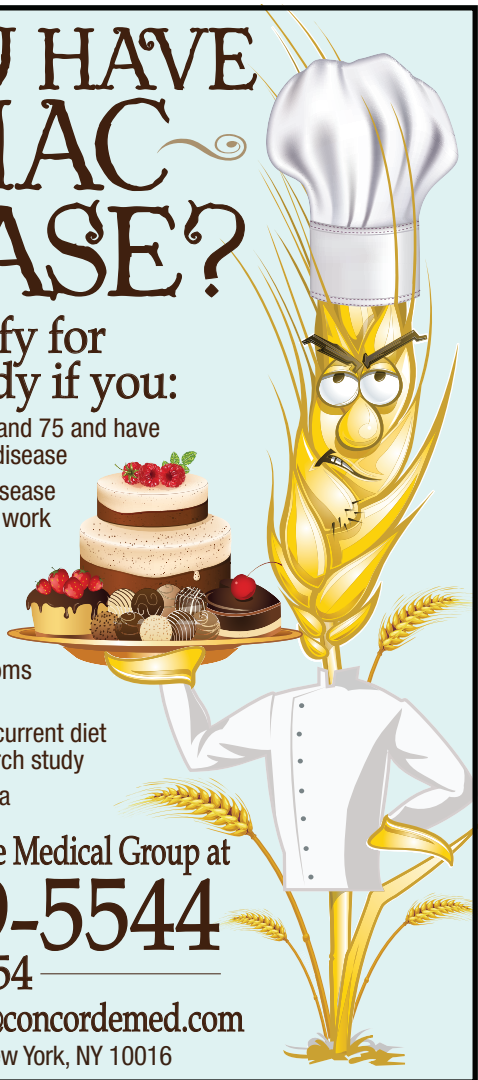

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, serial # 1268598, for Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 127 St Marks Place, New York, NY 10009. New York County, for on-premise consumption. Café & Bar Racer LLC.

### Legal Notices

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1267581, for Restaurant Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 19-19 Ditmars Blvd., Astoria NY 11105, for on-premises consumption. PAP Partners Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, serial # 1267577, for Liquor, Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine & Beer at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 103 West 70th Street, New York, NY 10023 for on-premise consumption. Coumas Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number TBA for LIQUOR has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Wine & Liquor at retail in a RESTAURANT, under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 4009 BROADWAY NY, NY 10032 for on-premises consumption. CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL OF COLORADO LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number Pending, for Restaurant Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 194-21 & 23 Northern Blvd, Flushing NY 11358, for on-premises consumption. Two Dimitris Corp.

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

*IN THE MATTER OF:*
*4-A GENERAL CONTRACTING CORP. WAGE LITIGATION*

Index No. 601548/02
**CLASS ACTION NOTICE**

**TO:** All individuals, including past or present employees, of 4-A General Contracting Corp. and/or SSN General Contracting Corp. (including entities known as SNA Contracting Corp., Dellwood & 4A Construction, LLC), who performed work in any trade from January 1, 1996 through approximately 2004 in connection with various New York City Housing Authority construction projects throughout the five boroughs of New York City. The defined class shall not include any clerical, administrative, professional, or supervisory employees.

The purpose of this notice is to advise you of this class action lawsuit, and of certain rights that you may have with respect to this action. This notice is not an expression by the Court of any opinion as to the merits of any claims or any defenses asserted by any party to this litigation.

Plaintiffs Miguel Moreta, Jose Munoz, Geraldo Quezada, Leonard Clarke, Dennville Jarvis and Runey Francis (collectively the "Plaintiffs") are former employees of 4-A General Contracting Corp. and/or SSN General Contracting Corp. (including entities known as SNA Contracting Corp., Dellwood & 4A Construction, LLC) (collectively the "Contractor Defendants") who brought this lawsuit on behalf of all other current and former employees of the Contractor Defendants who performed work on publicly financed construction projects for and/or at the direction of the Contractor Defendants. This lawsuit was also brought against defendants RLI Insurance Company, Lumbermens Mutual Casualty Company and Centennial Insurance Company. Lumbermens Mutual Casualty Company and Centennial Insurance Company are in liquidation. As such, all proceedings in this action are stayed as against Lumbermens Mutual Casualty Company and Centennial Insurance Company.

The Plaintiffs allege that they were not paid by the Contractor Defendants at the prevailing wage and supplemental benefit rate for the construction work that they performed at various New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") project sites throughout the five boroughs of New York City. The Plaintiffs further allege that they were not paid overtime compensation for hours they worked over forty in any given week.

The Defendants deny any wrongdoing and/or liability to the Plaintiffs or any other past or present employee and vigorously contest all claims asserted by the Plaintiffs.

For the period from January 1, 1996 through approximately 2004, the prevailing wage and benefit that should have been paid to individuals performing such work as carpentry, plumbing, painting, tiling, demolition, and other construction work at the various publicly financed construction projects ranged from approximately $34.32 to $70.00 per hour, depending upon trade.

You may be owed payment if you worked for the Contractor Defendants at any of the NYCHA construction projects. You may also be owed payment if you worked for the Contractor Defendants for more than forty (40) hours per week and you were not paid overtime at time-and-one-half (1.5x) your hourly rate of pay for all hours actually worked over forty (40) hours each week.

You do not need to do anything at this time as you are automatically a member of the class of workers who have claims arising under New York law so long as you worked for the Contractor Defendants at any time since 1996. As a class member, you will be bound by any decision of the Court in this lawsuit.

The Court has authorized publication of this Notice simply to advise you about the status of this lawsuit. Due to an existing criminal proceeding involving some of the Contractor Defendants and their principals, we cannot provide a timetable or estimate of when this class action lawsuit will be completed. For the time being, the Court has authorized Class Counsel to seek production of payroll and other contract documents related to this case.

Lloyd Ambinder, Esq. of the law firm of Virginia & Ambinder, LLP, 111 Broadway, Suite 1403, New York, New York 10006, telephone number (212) 943-9080, website: www.vandallp.com has been appointed by the Court as Class Counsel to represent you in this action. You will not be required to pay any fee for services provided by Virginia & Ambinder, LLP. If you are represented by Class Counsel, their costs and fees will be paid out of any recovery against the Defendants. You have a right to consult with an attorney about this matter. If you wish to be represented by other counsel, you may retain another attorney, but you may be responsible for paying that attorney.

If you do not wish to participate in this class action lawsuit, you must send a letter to Class Counsel stating your intention to opt-out of this lawsuit and exclude yourself from the Class. The letter should be sent to LaDonna M. Lusher, Esq. of Virginia & Ambinder, LLP, 111 Broadway, Suite 1403, New York, New York 10006. If you decide not to participate in this lawsuit (opt-out), you may not be eligible to receive any benefits in the event that any recovery is obtained. You would be free to file or pursue claims against any of the Defendants independently at your own expense.

The foregoing description is general and does not purport to cover all of the parties' claims, contentions, denials and defenses in the action. For a more detailed statement of the matters involved, you are referred to the pleadings and other papers filed in this action, all of which may be inspected at the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County Court House, 60 Centre Street, New York, New York, during normal business hours.

Further information about this notice and answers to other questions concerning this lawsuit may be obtained by contacting Lloyd Ambinder, Esq. or LaDonna M. Lusher, Esq., of Virginia & Ambinder, LLP, telephone number (212) 943-9080, facsimile number (212) 943-9082 or on the web at www.vandallp.com. If you should require Spanish translation, please call on Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and ask for Venus Velez or Yeskenia Polanco.

***All communications and discussions with Virginia & Ambinder, LLP are confidential and will not be disclosed without your consent. You have a right to participate in this action even if you are an undocumented alien or if you were paid in cash.***

**PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE CLERK OF THE COURT WITH QUESTIONS INVOLVING THIS LAWSUIT.**

Dated: New York, New York
February 5, 2013

/S
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Honorable Shirley Werner Kornreich, J.S.C.

Mark Morrisroe (1959–1989), *Untitled*, c. 1981. © The Estate of Mark Morrisroe (Ringier Collection) at Fotomuseum Winterthur